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IMMIGRANT  
ANCESTORS  
OF THE  
VARIOUS  
FOWLE  
FAMILIES  
OF  
AMERICA



# IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

OF THE VARIOUS

## FOWLE FAMILIES OF AMERICA

AND HISTORIC FACTS PERTAINING  
TO THEM AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

BY

ELMORE ALLEN PIERCE

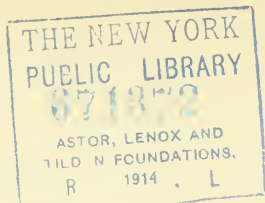
WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

HISTORIAN OF THE FOWLE KINDRED ASSOCIATION  
AND DESCENDANT OF THE IMMIGRANT, GEORGE  
FOWLE, CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS, 1638. . .



1912

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## ANCIENT GRAVESTONES OF THE FOWLE FAMILY

In the family lot of the original Fowle family of New England, in the First Burial Ground at Charlestown, Mass., which burial ground was established in 1638, rest the remains of George Fowle, the immigrant ancestor of this family, and his wife Mary; son Captain John Fowle and wife Anna Carter; son Lieutenant Isaac Fowle and wife Beriah Bright; Captain William Smith, son-in-law of Lieutenant Isaac Fowle and grandfather of Abigail (Smith) Adams, wife of President John Adams, and Sarah (Boylston) Smith, mother of Captain William Smith.

While the graves above mentioned are marked with headstones it is supposed that other members of the Fowle family also are buried there.

Although the gravestones are now from 178 to 230 years old they are in an excellent state of preservation.

I have had photographs taken of the family lot, and of the gravestones separately, which I have had arranged in a group and copied in a fine photographic halftone engraving. All of the inscriptions are plainly visible and the engraving makes a very interesting and valuable souvenir.

Connected with the engraving is a printed sketch of each of those whose gravestones are shown in the picture.

A copy of this pamphlet and the photo-engraving may be obtained for 75 cents for both, or either of them separately for 50 cents, by addressing.

Elmore Allen Pierce,  
Woburn, Mass-



## ELEVEN IMMIGRANTS OF THE NAME OF FOWLE

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This paper was prepared by Elmore Allen Pierce of Woburn, Massachusetts, Historian of the Fowle Kindred Association, and read by him at the seventh annual reunion of the association, held at North Reading, Mass., Labor Day, Monday, September 2, 1912.

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During my more than five years of diligent research for genealogical and historical data relating to the descendants of our earliest, or so-called immigrant, ancestor in this country, George Fowle, other immigrants have come to my notice one after another, until, to my surprise, I find that I have discovered eleven whom as yet I have been unable to link into a chain of common relationship.

**JOSEPH FOWLE, Jr., MERCHANT, 1724,  
BOSTON, MASS.**

I have brought to view three isolated immigrants of the name of Fowle in Boston and one in Malden, all of whom seem to have no descendants living in this country. In the Suffolk County Probate records there is a will approved in the year 1724, drawn by Joseph Fowle, Jr., merchant, of the city of Bristol, in Great Britain, but then residing in Boston, who was impelled to make the will because he was "bound

on a voyage to sea and considered the danger thereof." He speaks of his honored father, Joseph Fowle of said Bristol, coppersmith, his loving brothers, John and Francis Fowle, his sisters, Mary and Anne Fowle, and his late grandfather, Francis Fowle.

**FRANCIS FOWLE, 1721, BOSTON, MASS**

Francis Fowle, the brother, was living in Boston when the will was probated, where he had married Sarah Morris, the daughter of Charles Morris, sailmaker, who was selected by Joseph Fowle, Jr., to be executor of his will.

Joseph left the bulk of his property to his brother Francis and sister Mary. When and where he died is not stated. Francis Fowle and Sarah Morris were married in Boston, August 31, 1721, and they had a daughter Ann, born there December 17, 1723. Further than this I find no trace of them or of any descendants.

**JAMES FOWLE, TAILOR. 1691. BOSTON. MASS.**

In 1691 there came to Boston from Scotland, James Fowle, a tailor, who joined the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Co. in 1693, and was said by the historian of that company to have been possibly the son of Thomas Fowle, and was born in Boston in 1644. This seems to be disproved, however, by James Fowle himself, who, in a deposition made in Boston by him and four others, August 26, 1691, before Governor Simon Bradstreet, stated that he was then 45 years of age, and he with the others, all deposed that they knew well that James Smith, then also of Boston, was the eldest son of James Smith, late of Glasgow, Scotland, merchant. This indicates that they all came from Glasgow. Fowle was a tailor in Boston for a number of years and died in 1720. In the records of the Second Church of Boston, under date of October 4, 1691, may be found the names of James, Margaret and Dorothy Fowle as being admitted to the church on that day. There being no other James Fowle in Boston at that time of the proper age to be admitted to church membership there can be little doubt that this was James Fowle, the tailor, and the two females were perhaps his wife and daughter. There is a record to show that he was a married man, but I have discovered no record

that he left a son to perpetuate his family line.

**PHILIP FOWLE 1688. MALDEN. MASS.**

The old records of Middlesex County give the marriage at Malden of Philip Fowle and Elizabeth Atwood, November 26, 1688, and the birth of a daughter named Elizabeth the following year. I have discovered nothing further in relation to this family. I am inclined to the opinion that the name may have been Fowler instead of Fowle, and that the record is in error, as the name Philip occurs nowhere else in the records of the Fowle family although it is rather common to the Fowler family and was the name of the immigrant ancestor of that family. I think I have made the statement in a previous paper that the names Fowle, Fowles, and Fowler belong to three entirely distinct families and there have not even been any marriage alliances between them so far as I have discovered, except one, and that of quite recent date, viz: Mildred Henshaw Fowle of Brooklyn, N. Y., and W. K. Fowler of East Orange, N. J. Miss Fowle was the only daughter of Josiah Fiske Fowle of Brooklyn, formerly of Boston.

**ANN FOWLE, 1635**

Another immigrant, a female, Ann Fowle, is given in the list of passengers in a vessel commanded

by Edward Paine, master, which sailed from England in 1635, but I have found no further trace of her. She appears to have been the earliest immigrant of the name of Fowle.

THOMAS FOWLE, MERCHANT, 1639, BOSTON, MASS.

The second male immigrant of the name was Thomas Fowle. On September 30, 1639, he was admitted to be an inhabitant of Boston. He doubtless soon purchased a home, for in the Book of Possessions he is recorded as the owner of a house and garden on the easterly side of the "high streete" so called. This is now Washington street, and his home was located on the third lot from what is now Bedford street.

He was a shipping merchant and evidently a man of considerable importance and standing, for he was soon granted a great lot of land, comprising 600 acres, in Rumney Marsh, which with Winnisimmet and Pullen Point were set off from Boston as the Town of Chelsea in 1738. This was a long strip of marsh, with some upland, extending from Charlestown to Lynn, and was later called the "Chelsea Pan Handle." I take it that a portion or most of this land is in what is now Revere and is situated along the present valuable beach district. This land was granted to Mr. Fowle in less than four months after he

was admitted as an inhabitant, or on January 27 following. It was granted by the then called Townsmen of Boston, afterwards the Selectmen. This board was at that time composed of John Winthrop and Richard Bellingham, Governor and treasurer respectively of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, William Colborne, Captain Edward Gibbons, afterwards a major general, William Tyng, John Cogan, (or Coggin), Robert Harding, William Hibbins, and Jacob Eliott, all leading men of Boston and of the Colony.

At a meeting of the Townsmen, held December 30, 1644, assurance was given to Thomas Fowle, Gent., concerning the payment of his proportion towards the fortification at Castle Island, that "no more shall be required of him toward the building of the work then in hand there, and in case it be not finished one half of his money shall be returned to him." On the 26th of December, 1645, at a general meeting of the inhabitants, Thomas Fowle was chosen as one of the then designated Selectmen, the others being John Winthrop, Esq., then Deputy Governor, he having been succeeded as Governor by Thomas Dudley, William Hibbins, Gent., Major Edward Gibbons, Captain Robert Keayne, William Colborne, Valentine Hill, Jacob Eliott and James Penn. This indicates that Mr. Fowle had taken a place in the

town of Boston as one of its prominent and influential men. The records show that Mr. Fowle attended all the meetings of the Selectmen during the year following his election except the last two. At a general town meeting held March 18, 1646, he was not a candidate for re-election.

During Mr. Fowle's residence in Boston he owned ships for trading between England and the colonies and seems to have been a man of considerable means. Legal records disclose mercantile transactions which involved large sums of money and several recorded mortgages testify that he had surplus funds to loan. In 1646 and 1647, however, he became involved in a controversy between two Frenchmen named D'Aulnay and LaTour, into which the government was also drawn, and a ship which he owned was seized in London by the La Tour party for damages, causing him quite a loss.

In 1646 he was earnest for civil and religious liberties and joined with several other leading men in an endeavor to secure these from the General Court of the Colony, also the abrogation of the laws against Anabaptists. Failing here they petitioned the Parliament of England, but were also unsuccessful there. The hearing by the General Court in Boston was attended with much spirit and acrimony,

Governor Winthrop being the leader of those opposed to the petitioners. As a result several of them were heavily fined and Mr. Fowle and a John Smith were for a short time imprisoned. Becoming disgusted with their treatment all but one of them, Samuel Maverick, left the country and went back to England, where Mr. Fowle arrived in November, 1646. Since then the narrow spirit shown against them has been condemned and they have been justified in their requests. Mr. Fowle and his wife Margaret became the parents of five children while living in Boston, who accompanied them on their return to England.

In 1648 Governor Winthrop in his history spoke of Mr. Fowle as follows: "God has brought him very low, both in his estate and reputation, since he joined in the first petition," but Historian Whitman of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Co., of which Mr. Fowle was a member while in Boston, says: "There is no reason to attribute it to a judgment of God; it is far more easy to account for his becoming poor by losses at sea, heavy fines, imprisonment, delays, expenses," etc.

**REV. JOHN FOWLE, MINISTER. BERMUDA ISLANDS**

During the latter part of the 17th century a Rev. John Fowle of



England, was the settled minister in the Islands of Bermuda. There he married, sometime after 1675, Love Prout, widow of William Prout of Boston, and granddaughter of Major General Edward Gibbons. They had several children and Rev. Mr. Fowle died in Bermuda after his wife, who died there also in the year 1700. She owned at the time the Squa Sachem farm of 480 acres, bordering on the west shore of Mystic Lake, now Winchester and Arlington, and this was administered by a son-in-law then living or stopping in Boston. The farm was divided into nine parts, two of which were given to the eldest son, John Fowle, and the other seven to the remaining seven children. The divisions were gradually disposed of to parties living round about Boston, but the family apparently remained in Bermuda, as I have not found any descendants in New England. I am inclined to the opinion that Rev. John Fowle was a son of Thomas Fowle, and was born in Boston in 1641, when Thomas Fowle was intimate with Major General Edward Gibbons, the grandfather of Rev. Mr. Fowle's wife. The Squa Sachem farm is said to have been given by the Indian Squa, or sold at a nominal price, to the father of Love Gibbons, in gratitude for kindnesses received by the Indians from Major General Gibbons.

EDMUND FOWLE, 1718, NEWTON, MASS.

What appears to have been the immigrant ancestor of another Fowle family, of which two members became distinguished in the military history of the country, is first recorded in Newton, Mass., where we find, under date of October 2, 1718, the marriage of an Edmund Fowle, the record being in a private diary, a portion of the page which contained the name of his bride being torn off and missing. A later record in Newton, however, gives her name as Mercy (a name identical with Mary), a son Edmund being recorded as born to Edmund and Mercy Fowle, September 23, 1719. Edmund, the father, died at Newton, October 14, 1726. Some years later we find the son in Watertown where there is a record of his marriage to Abigail Whitney, March 17, 1745. He is mentioned in the Watertown records as the son of Edmund and Mary (Smith) Fowle of Newton.

A tradition in this family has it that the first Edmund came from England, although there is no known proof of this and it is possible that sometime it may be discovered that he was a descendant of George Fowle through one of the branches of his family, George having had six sons who were married. However, up to the present time I have found no link to connect the two families. The descendants of

Edmund and Mary (Smith) Fowle are shown to have been prominent in military, civic, intellectual and social events for more than a century, and have been intimately connected through marriage with other notable families. Of John Fowle, the sixth child and third son of Edmund and Abigail (Whitney) Fowle, an article in the *Massachusetts Mercury* in 1798 says:

"Among the patriots of the Revolutionary Army was Captain John Fowle. This officer served with credit and reputation during the whole of the Revolutionary war. At the time the Marquis de Lafayette was ordered to the southwest to oppose the progress of the army of Lord Cornwallis, Captain Fowle was selected as one of the officers. Under that distinguished command he served and endured all the dangers incident to that campaign. When the army under the command of General Washington formed a junction with the Marquis at Yorktown Captain Fowle continued to serve in the Light Infantry and his company composed a part of the detachment under the command of the Marquis which stormed Lord Cornwallis's advanced redoubts and enabled Gen. Washington to advance and take such a position as compelled his lordship to surrender. After the glorious struggle terminated Captain Fowle, with his brother officers retired to

private life. He was one of the founders of the Society of the Cincinnati and a member of the executive committee of the Massachusetts branch. In all his relations, public and private, he performed his duties with fidelity."

In 1781 Captain Fowle married Mary Cooke of Newton, daughter of Phineas and Abigail (Durant) Cooke, and tradition says that they were "the handsomest bride and groom ever married in Newton." They took up their residence in Watertown where six daughters and two sons were born to them, the daughters being famed for their beauty. A standing toast, originating with Robert Treat Paine, was the couplet:

"To the fair of every town  
And the Fowle of Watertown"

The second daughter, Harriet, who was particularly intellectual, married William Smith, a lawyer of Hanover, N. H., and became the mother of Henry Wells Smith, who also became a lawyer and, in order to avoid confusion with another Henry W. Smith, changed his name to Henry Fowle Durant, thereby taking the family names of his mother and grandmother. He became widely known as a lawyer, also later in evangelical work, and finally as the founder of Wellesley college, at Wellesley, Mass.

Captain John Fowle's elder son, who bore his father's name, like



him, when the occasion arrived, took up arms for his country and also achieved military fame. On April 9, 1812, he enlisted in the war against England, was commissioned second lieutenant, then first lieutenant, and when the war terminated was captain of the same company, attached to the Ninth regiment of U. S. Infantry. He continued as captain in the regular army and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel of the Sixth regiment of Infantry. In the spring of 1838, the colonel of that regiment having been killed in the Seminole Indian war in Florida, Colonel Fowle was ordered to take command, but on his journey thither he was killed, April 25, by the explosion of the steamboat Moselle, opposite Cincinnati. A brother officer who had served with him said: "Colonel Fowle had few equals of his grade and no superiors," and a New York newspaper paid him the following tribute: "From his entrance into military life to the close of his earthly career, Colonel Fowle was conspicuous for the diligent, faithful, and efficient performance of his official duties, for his unsullied honor and spotless purity of life."

Colonel Fowle had one daughter, who became the wife of Henry Fowle Durant, and one son who died two years after his father, thus bringing to an end the male line of

this distinguished family. Mrs. Durant is still living in Boston at the age of 80 years, and is well known as a patroness of Wellesley college. Captain John Fowle had two brothers who also served in the Revolution, one of them becoming a lieutenant. Col. John Fowle succeeded his father as a member of the Society of the Cincinnati.

**CURTIS FOWLE, FARMER, 1766, PRINCETON, MASS.**

In a company of Minute Men organized in Princeton, Mass., (as there were in many other towns of the Colonies previous to the Revolutionary War, to be ready at a moment's notice for the anticipated outbreak with England) was found marching with his comrades on the alarm of April 19, 1775, an immigrant from London, England, by the name of Curtis Fowle, serving as a corporal. He had been in this country less than nine years.

An inscription on a gravestone in an old burying ground in the City of Worcester reads:—"In memory of Curtis Fowle, who died March 18, 1825, aged 80. An Englishman by birth, came to this country, joined the American army in 1775, faithfully served during the war. He married Susanna Shedd, January 23, 1785."

The Worcester Spy of March 23, 1825, gave the following obituary notice of him.:—"Died, 18th

inst., Mr. Curtis Fowle, aged 80. He was an Englishman by birth and came to this country about the year 1766 on board a British Frigate, from which he deserted. In 1775 he joined the American army in which he faithfully served during the whole Revolutionary war."

His record of service was one of the longest and most honorable of any soldier of that memorable strife, beginning with the hour of the alarm from Lexington and continuing until the ratification of peace with England in 1783, a period of more than eight years. Previous to that service he had probably lived in Princeton, a town adjoining Worcester, and he is credited as a soldier from that town.

In a descriptive list of soldiers, dated West Point, January 29, 1781, his age is given as 37 years; height, 5 feet, 8 inches; occupation, farmer; birthplace, London, England; residence, Princeton, Mass. From this we gather that he was about 21 years of age when he deserted from the British Frigate in 1766.

Evidence that he fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775, is contained in an account of articles lost in that battle by men belonging to Captain John Jones' Company, Colonel Ephraim Doolittle's regiment, the list including a sword belonging to Corporal Fowle.

The records of Worcester show that he married Susanna Shedd in that city January 23, 1785. He was then about 40 years of age. In the records of Boston we find that a Susan Fowle died in that city June 2, 1825, aged 67 years. She is given as of Worcester, and it is probable that she was the widow of Curtis Fowle, and followed him to the grave in less than three months. At the time of her marriage she would have been 27 years of age. There are no children on record born to this couple.

**BENJAMIN FOWLE, FARMER, 1794, NEW YORK STATE**

Throughout the western states there are numerous descendants of two brothers by the name of Fowle who came from England in 1794, these descendants being next in numbers to those of our own immigrant ancestor, George Fowle.

Through correspondence in 1909 with a Mr. C. M. Burton of Detroit, Mich., who at that time was endeavoring to discover the identity of Colonel John Fowle, who was killed in the explosion of the steamer Moselle, I discovered that an Otto Fowle of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., was then a senator in the Michigan Legislature. A letter to him brought a reply stating that a cousin of his, Benjamin Densmore, of Red Wing, Minn., could give me information relative to this Fowle

family. I wrote him at once and received a prompt reply from his brother, Daniel Densmore, containing many interesting genealogical facts. From this I gathered that three brothers and two sisters came from southeastern England and settled in New York state. Benjamin Fowle, the grandfather of Senator Fowle and the brothers Densmore, led the way of the emigration of this family to America, the others following later. The parents of these children were Richard Fowle and Elizabeth Dobell, and they lived in Cranbrook, County of Kent, England, where Benjamin was born, May 3, 1772. Cranbrook was once a busy seat of the broadcloth manufacture and in 1900 contained a population of about 4000. Benjamin was unmarried when he left England, at the age of 22 years, on February 25, 1794, landing in New York City, April 30, after a strenuous voyage of nine weeks. The Mohawk Valley and Central New York were then opening up to settlers and this extended later to the Genessee Country. Benjamin found employment in this region and on August 28, 1798, he married in New York City, Martha Lea, a very estimable young woman who was born in Birmingham, England. They settled down in the Genessee Valley where Mr. Fowle pursued the occupation of farming,

rearing his family for the most part near Caledonia, about 18 miles southwest of Rochester. He became familiarly known throughout that section as "Squire Fowle."

From there he removed, about 1856, to Rock County, Wisconsin, and his descendants, as well as those of one of his brothers, are now widely scattered throughout the western country. A descendant of the brother was living in Detroit, Mich., in 1909, by the name of George William Fowle, who became quite prominent in that city, where he was a police commissioner. He never married and is reputed to have acquired considerable wealth. The other brother of the immigrant Benjamin is said to have been a soldier in Wellington's army before coming to America.

My courteous informant as to the genealogy of this Fowle family, Mr. Daniel Densmore, states that he finds no mention among his father's notes in regard to the Fowle family of Massachusetts, and does not recall having ever heard any allusion to them. so doubts very much if "Squire" Fowle's people were at any time aware that there were predecessors of their kin in the new world, although this, he thinks, is not surprising, considering the lack of facilities for communication in his day, and the fact that the earliest immigrant, George Fowle, came here nearly 160 years before.

I am impressed with the thought, however, that there is a relationship between the two families, from information furnished by William S. Appleton, A. M., of Boston, in 1870, in an article on "The Origin of the Merriams and Other Families of Concord, Mass."

In July, 1868, he made research in Kent County, England, which convinced him that this was the home of the father of the three Merriam brothers, who came to Concord about, and possibly at the same time, as George Fowle, probably in 1637 or 1638. He found the will of William Merriam, of Hadlowe, County of Kent, a clothier, in which he mentioned his three sons, Joseph, George and Robert, the names identical with the three brothers, of Concord. This will was proved November 27, 1635. Hadlowe is near Tunbridge, which is only about 11 miles from Cranbrook, the home of Richard Fowle.

Mr. Appleton says that the names of Buss, Hosmer, Willard, Fowle, Hartwell, Barrett, Brooks, Fletcher, Hayward, Wheeler and Wood, all names of the early inhabitants of Concord, are instantly met with in the County of Kent, and advises all who are seeking for ancestors who settled in Concord to look to Kent.

Still further evidence is contained in a book found by a niece

of Mr. Daniel Densmore, in 1908, in the Congressional Library at Washington, D. C., entitled:—"The Families of Kent County, England," in which there was mentioned in a table dated 1629, the Fowle family, thus:—

"John Fowle of Sandhurst, County Kent. John Fowle married Alice Bachelor. Sir John Fowle married Cecelia Steed, daughter of Sir Knight William Steed. Their children: Cecelia, Elizabeth and Mary.

Alexander Fowle married Dorathy Warteress. Their children: John, Henry, Alexander, William, Elizabeth, Dorathy and Mary."

All this is very interesting to us and I heartily wish that some wealthy member or members of the Fowle family would endow me with sufficient funds to send me on a trip to Kent County to establish, if possible, the English home of our ancestors,—which the poverty of my own treasury does not enable me to do.

In July of this year I wrote to the College of Arms in London, inquiring as to the Fowle family coat of arms, and the cost of obtaining information relating to it, as I desire to get an absolutely accurate description of the coat of arms which the descendants of George Fowle are entitled to use. In response to this letter I received the following:—



"Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter, there are numerous entries in the 17th century of the Fowle family. The cost of a short detail of those families would be 2l.-2p., and of a full detail 5l.-4s. Kindly write direct to me.

Yours faithfully,  
Algae Howard,  
Rouge Dragon."

GEORGE FOWLE, TANNER, 1638. CONCORD, MASS.

The first male immigrant of the name, so far as the records disclose, was George Fowle, our own ancestor, father of Lieutenant James Fowle, the progenitor of all the Fowle families of Woburn and of the prominent and numerous North Carolina branch, who came to this country, probably in 1638, and settled in Concord, Mass. There are several reasons for concluding that this was the year of his arrival, one being that he was admitted a free-man of the Colony in March, 1639, and another that his son John was born in 1637 and was brought to New England by his parents, a babe in his mother's arms, when the family arrived, an older sister, Hannah, also coming with them. What Mr. Fowle's occupation was before coming to Concord, or while he resided there, is not known. For reasons heretofore stated it is probable that he came from Kent County, England.

He appears to have been a man who inspired and retained the confidence of his fellow men and to have taken a leading position in Concord. The proceedings of the General Court of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, on May 22, 1639, show that by vote of that body, "George Fowle was allowed and sworn surveyor of the armes for Concord." This position was that of inspector of arms and his duty, I take it, was to see that they were kept in good condition for military service when occasion demanded, mostly for protection against the Indians.

In those early days the people were required to make salt peter for use in the manufacture of gun-powder by the government, the General Court ordering on September 27, 1642, that: "The townsmen in every town shall take order that every house, or some two or more houses to joyne together for the breeding of salt peeter in some out house used for poultry, or the like, and to give them direction about the same, according to the former order of the Court, which order is hereby repealed, save only to bee made use of for direction of families in their severall houses appointed by this order: & every towne which shall neglect the execution of this order before the last of the first month next, shall forfeit 20 s.: & every family so ap-

pointed that shall fail therein shall forfeit for every month so failing 12d. & to let them know that such peeter as shall bee raised by this means shall bee for the public use: but the owners shall have a due price for the same."

A number of towns were selected and George Fowle was appointed for Concord as one of "These to have charge of looking to this order & to have halfe the forfeitures of the severall families for their labor, & the other halfe to be bestowed for furthering the worke."

Mr. Fowle and his wife Mary, maiden name unknown, continued to reside in Concord until 1647 or 1648, where four children were born to them, one of whom died in infancy. They removed to Charlestown where five more children were added to the family, making seven sons and four daughters in all. Six of the sons and two of the daughters were married and their descendants have been a numerous progeny, most of whom have continued to reside in New England. Soon after his removal to Charlestown Mr. Fowle purchased real estate and engaged in the business of tanning leather, pursuing this occupation during the remainder of his life and transmitting a well established and successful business to his two oldest sons, John and Peter. Both Mr. Fowle and his wife died in Charlestown, she on

February 15, 1676, at the age of 63 years, and he on September 19, 1682, at the age of 72 years. Five of his children, all sons, were then living, and are mentioned in his will. Gravestones grouped in a family lot in the old Phipps street burying ground, not far from Thompson Square, and almost in the shade of Bunker Hill monument, mark the resting places of George Fowle and wife Mary, Captain John and Lieutenant Isaac Fowle, two of his sons, and their wives.

The location of his home and tannery I have not yet placed exactly but it was not far from the old training field and about northwest of the site of Bunker Hill monument. His first purchase of land was from Ralph Mousall, the father of the John Mousall who was one of the seven founders of Charlestown Village, now Woburn. George Fowle was evidently, as we may judge from his will, a careful, thorough and methodical man and a considerate and loving husband and father; also a man of keen perception, foresight and knowledge of human nature. He directed the disposition of his estate with great care and detail, leaving nothing to be taken for granted or that should lead to controversy among his heirs. It is a remarkably intelligent will, as you may see, and might well be taken as a model for



the present generation to pattern after. The following is an exact copy of the document, which is now on file in the Registry of Probate at East Cambridge, the spelling, punctuation and capitalization being retained exactly as in the original.

The signature of George Fowle is an excellent one for that period, although obviously written by the hand of one who had become somewhat feeble with age. The contents of the will, although doubtless written by another hand than that of the testator, bear every evidence of having been composed at his dictation, the substance if not the form being plainly an expression of his own thoughts and wishes.

#### **WILL OF GEORGE FOWLE**

The last will and testameant of George fowle of Charlestown, made \*ye eleventh of March, one thousand six hundred eighty one eighty two:

In the nam of god Amen I George fowle of Charlestowne in the County of Meddlesex in the Collony of the Masattusetts in New England tanner being sensibell of the decays of nature growing uppon me yet att present through gods goodnes beinge distinct in my understanding and Memory do declare this my last will and testameant in wrighting the day and year above wreeton †yt whinsoever itt shall

\*For "ye" read "the."

please god to call me outt of this world I do hearby bequeath my soule unto Christ Jesus who hath so dearly bought it my body to be decently burried in the earth to sleep in duste untell the Resurrection of the Just: And as for yt portion of outwarde estat which god hath graciously given me to improve as his steward I do thus in his feare desposs thereof:

I will first yt all my just debts and funnerall expences be discharged by my exeqotor: afterward I do give thees following leggacys in token of my dear love unto thees my dear children which are hear-after mentioned—first I do give to my dear son Jno fowle as an adition to what I have formerly done for him my long house at the lower end of my yarde on the south side with the land it stands uppon and the lande lying behinde the said long house in lew of a peece of land which formerly I gave him hops of in another place. I say my long house and the land formerly mentioned in a straight line answerable to ye upper end of ye said house over to Samill Reeds land formerly John Mousals upon condition yt my son John fowle his heirs exeqotors admenestratrs and assigns do from time to time and att all times & forever make and maintaine a suffishant fence uppon ye said line answerable to the upper

†For "yt" read "that."

end of the aforesaid long hous: and further yt my son John fowle his heirs and assigns forever make and maintaine all the fence att the lower end of my yarde before my hous with two suffishant gats one for carting and another for a foott-way as has been formerly and all other fence which he is ingaged by wrighting under his own hand to make and maintaine againste my lande: torthr my son John fowle is nott to lay any thing in my yarde so as to hinder the improvement of itt by thos yt shall live in the hous and what dammag is done to gats or fence or houssing threw his means either by carts comning into ye yarde or by leaving open the gats my son John fowle shall make itt good: forther that he shall have no other preveledge in ye yarde only to com to his houssing with barke & other occations about his work their.

2—I do give to my son Petter fowle that peec of land on the back side of his hous uppon a straight line from his garden pals over to John Moussals land ajoyning: uppon conditions yt he my son Petter fowle his heirs exequtors administrators and assigns do from time to time & at all tims forever make and maintaine a suffishant board or pale fence between his land & my son Abraham fowls land.

3—I do give to my son Abraham fowle my now dwelling house with

the land itt stands uppon with ye barne and outhoussing to itt on the North end of my dwelling house with ye yarde before my hous down to the highwaye leadinge to the penny ferry with the orchard and garden behinde the housse and so downe on the south side of aforesaid long house with my medow or pasture land on the North side of my dwelling house barne and orchard and other outhoussing as far as my son Petter fowls fence: forther I do give to my son Abraham my hay lote in the lowe Marsh commonly called the dirty Marsh with my lote of upland on the back-side of the hill behind Robert Leathes: and also three cows commons on the stinted comon with all the Rights and preveledges theirunto belonging: also tenn acres of my wood lott on the other side of Mesteeck Rever with the lumber and wood and other preveleges apertaining theirunto also all my cattell and swine with all my moveables: exept so much as I have dispossd of ither by word or wrighting also all my wearing apparell both linning and woolling:

4—I do give to my son Issack fowle tenn acres of my wood lote on Mesteeck Side with the lumber and wood and other preveledges apertaining theirunto and twenty five pounds more to be paid to hime fifteen pounds to be paid by my son John fowlle beinge parte of a

debte due to me from him by bonde and ten pounds to be paid by my son Petter fowle which also is parte of a debte due to me by a bill under his own hand and this twenty five pounds to be paid by ech of my sons to my son Isack fowle within one year after my deceas in the sam speesy yt is mentioned in ye bonde and bille exept they can agree for other paye between themselves the remainder of thos debts from my son John and my son Petter fowll to be equally devided between them both and my son Jams fowle: forther it is my will yt my son Abraham shall nott sell lete nor disposs of any parte or parcell of theaforesaidpremesis without the consent & aprobaton of my exequotorr and overseers hereafter named—and if it shall please god to take away my son Abraham without children or a child yt then my son Isack shall have one cow common with halfe of my lote of upland and half my lot of Marsh: my son Zacharias child shall if living till he com to age have halfe my Marsh & one cows common: To the rest of the estate my exequotorr and overseers shall have power to disposs of as they shall so meet for the comfortable subsistans of my daughter hannah my son Abrahams present wife so long as she continues my son Abrahams wedowe butt if my son Abraham shall leave ither child or children yt then the whole

estatt shall remaine to wedow & children & to be improved for their good according to the discretion of my exequotorr and overseers: forther it is my will yt after my sons Abraham and Isack have had their proportions of my wood lote yt the remainder shall be devided eqally between my sons John and Petter with all the rights apertaining theirunto—forther it is my will & I do hearby declar yt my exequotorr shall demand and receive of Edward Paine Senir the full summ of twenty pounds which was due to me from my son Zachariah fowle as will appear by a bill under his own hand unles the said Edward Paine do agree with me before and have som discharg under my hand: forther my will is yt my son Abraham shall not entertain any person or persons into the hous as inmatrs without the consent and aprobaton of my exequotorr & overseers: forther yt my son Abraham shall not disposs or give away by will or otherways any parte of this esstate with out the consent and ye aprobaton of my exequotorr & overseers; forther it if shall please god so to order itt yt my son Abraham shall leave hannah a wedow & she should se good to change her condision by Marrying againe yt then she shall have one third parte of the estat yt then is remaining alowed her by my exequotorr and overseers ither by selling of house

or land or both: forther if it pleas god to order it so yt nither my son Abrahams wedow nor children nor my son Zacharias child should live to enjoy the formentioned premeses as to the upland and marsh & two cows commons yt the other halfe of my Marsh lote shall be my son John fowls and the other half of the upland shall be my son Isacks and the two cows commons one to my son John and the other to my son Petter & conserning the twenty pounds in Edward Pains hands if my exeqotorr receaves it and the child dye before it coms to agge yt then I do disposs of it as followeth—five pounds I give to my son John fowls eldest son and five pounds to my son Petters son Zachary and five pounds to my son Isacks eldest son Isack and five pounds to my grandson Jams fowll: forther I do hearby declar yt I do make constitute and apoynte my three loving frinds Samuell Ruggles Senir John Call Senir Thomas White Senir to be my overseers to this my laste will to se to the true performans of ye promises: and forther I do hearby declar that I do constitute and apoynte my loving son Petter fowle to be my sole exeqetor to this my last wille to defray all my funnerall expenses and to pay all just debts by me contracted as also to demand and receive all just debts due to me and to give ech of my three frinds

beformentioned ech of them a pair of Boots: and if any deffrens ariss between my sons aboute my estat yt then my overseers shall hear and determin ye sam and if the matter or cas prove to be too hard or dubious for them to eshue yt then itt shall be in their power for to make chois of three Magestrats to hear & to put an eshue to all such diffrencis as may arisse:forther itt is my wille yt if itt shall pleas god to take away ether of my formentioned frinds or overseers yt itt shall be in the power of thos yt do survive to make chois of another to supply the room of ye former: forther itt shall be in the power of my overseers to lete the upper room in the south end of my house unto my son Petter fowll ether for rent or on cortesy as they shall see meet.

George  
ffowle

wax seal
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Signed and sealed  
in the presence  
of us: Nathaniel Frothingham  
Samuell Frothingham

Octob. 3: 82: Nathll Frothingham  
Samll Frothingham  
appearing in  
court made  
oath to the  
abovesd will.  
Jonathan Remington  
Clerk.

The Inventorie of the estate of



George fflowle decesed as it was		ye comon	27:00:0
taken the 29th September 1682 by		a hay lott	10:00:0
us.		a wood lott in ye	
	1:s:d:	first division	10:00:0
Imp: a Chest of weareing		a parcell of boards	00:06:0
apparell	16:06:0	ye dwelling house with	
wearing linnen	2:10:0	ye land about it &	
a Chest with linnen	4:04:0	ye outhouses	100:00:0
2 hats with a Case	0:10:0	a debt of John fflowles	50:00:0
a ffeather bed & bol-		a debt of Petter	
ster	2:15:0	ffowles	40:00:0
a fflock bed bolster		mony	3:10:0
rug coverlid blan-			
kets & pillows	3:05:0		346:18:6
books	1:10:0		25:13:2
brass	1:18:0		
Iron utensills	2:10:0	Rest:	321:05:4
Puter & tin ware	2:10:0	The Estate Dbts	
Earthern & wooden		Severll debts due	009:13:6
ware &c	0:10:6	ffuneriall charge & physick	
a Cupboard 1l: two		in mony	015:19:8
Chests 8s	1:08:0		
Tables chairs cush-			25:13:2
ions stools &c	3:00:0	Richard Bowden	
Tubbs &c in the cel-		John Call	
ler	1:10:0	Oct. 3, 1682: Peter Fowle execu-	
bottles	0:10:0	tor appearing in Court made oath	
Corne salte &c	1:03:0	to the abovesd inventory.	
bags 9s: Cheeses 14s	1:03:0	Jonathan Remington	
3 Cows & hay laid in		Clerk.	
for them	9:00:0		
a debt from Jonathan		I have treated of many of the	
Sprague	3:00:0	descendants of George Fowle in	
a debt of Zach: fflowle		papers which I have read at past	
due from his estate	20:00:0	reunions of this association and it	
one acre of upland	12:00:0	is my intention at the reunion next	
3 cows commons	15:00:0	year to present a paper on: "The	
4 acres & 1-2 of land		Fowle Family of North Carolina, &	
in ye New field on		Branch of the Woburn Tree."	

Samuel Richardson Fowle, a son of William Fowle and Sarah Richardson of Woburn, and a descendant of the immigrant, George Fowle, was the progenitor of the North Carolina family, having gone from Woburn and settled in Washington, Beaufort County, that state, in 1815. His descendants have become quite numerous and prominent in that state and their marriage alliances have been among the most respectable families of the south. Daniel Gould Fowle, a son of Samuel Richardson Fowle, has been the most distinguished representative of this family, having been Governor of North Carolina, as well as holding other high state offices, civic, judicial and military.





## THE FOWLE KINDRED ASSOCIATION

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The Fowle Kindred Association, of which the author of this pamphlet has been historian since 1907, is an organization comprising descendants of Lieutenant James Fowle, the progenitor of all the Fowle families of Woburn, Massachusetts, and vicinity.

Lieutenant Fowle, who was the fifth child and third son of George Fowle, the immigrant who is referred to in the pages of this pamphlet, was born in Concord, Massachusetts, in 1642, and married, in 1666, Abigail Carter, daughter of Captain John Carter of Woburn, four sons and four daughters being the fruit of their union.

He was an officer in the militia of Woburn, and in 1690 joined the Phips Expedition to Quebec, Canada, against the French. While in Canada he was stricken with disease, caused by exposure during the excessively cold weather, and although able to return to his home in Woburn he died there in December of that year, in the forty-ninth year of his age.

His descendants have been numerous and many of them prominent in the various walks of life. While the larger portion of them have remained in the vicinity of their ancestral home others are found today in many states of the Union, specially Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Michigan, Colorado, California, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Maryland and Virginia, with a large and notable branch in North Carolina.

The association is the outgrowth of a gathering of a few families, descendants of Deacon John Fowle of Woburn, residents of Woburn and adjoining towns, who held basket picnic parties for several years, on Labor Day, at North Reading, Massachusetts.

This gathering adopted the name of the Fowle Family Association and soon grew to such importance that the name was changed to the Fowle Kindred Association in order to enlarge its scope and include all descendants of Lieutenant James Fowle.

Deacon John Fowle was born in Woburn in 1755 and died there in 1834. He was a soldier in the Revolution, as were also his two only brothers, his father, all of his three uncles and a number of cousins. He was also prominent in church and official life in his native town.

It is probable that at the reunion on Labor Day, 1913, the scope of the association will be still further broadened so as to comprehend all descendants of George Fowle, the immigrant, who came from England and settled in Concord, Massachusetts, in 1638.

Reunions of the association have been held for seven years past at North Reading, on Labor Day, and in 1913 the eighth annual reunion will be held at Woburn, on the same anniversary, when the largest attendance yet assembled is expected.

All descendants of Lieutenant James Fowle, whether bearing the name of Fowle or of an allied family, are eligible to membership and are cordially invited and urged to join the association.

The officers of the association for 1912—1913, all residents of Massachusetts, are as follows: President: Arthur Adams Fowle of Woburn, Managing Editor of the Boston Globe. Vice Presidents: George Herbert Fowle, Oliver Richardson Fowle and Mrs. Lizzie R. Fowle-Wilson, all of Stoneham, Charles Henry Flagg of Woburn, and George Freeman Fowle of South Duxbury. Recording Secretary: Mrs. Mabel A. Fowle-Eaton of North Reading. Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Ethel M. Fowle-Johnson of Reading. Treasurer: Mrs. Minnie A. Fowle-Putnam of North Reading. Executive Committee: Elmore Allen Pierce, Chairman, Arthur Adams Fowle, John Leonard Fowle, Mrs. Caroline A. Duren-Pierce, Mrs. Kate W. Munn-Fowle, and Mrs. Jessie A. Sellers-Fowle, all of Woburn, George Herbert Fowle and Mrs. Grace E. Healey-Fowle of Stoneham, George Freeman Fowle and Mrs. Susan E. Hunt-Fowle of South Duxbury. Historian: Elmore Allen Pierce of Woburn.

Richard Borden of Portsmouth  
buried in Friends Burial Ground  
there in Joan Fowle dau of  
Richard Fowle and Mary Fildes  
and Thomas Fowle and Joan — 1660

See Boston Transcript Feb 11  
1925

also New England Genealogical  
Register Vol 75, p 226-232









































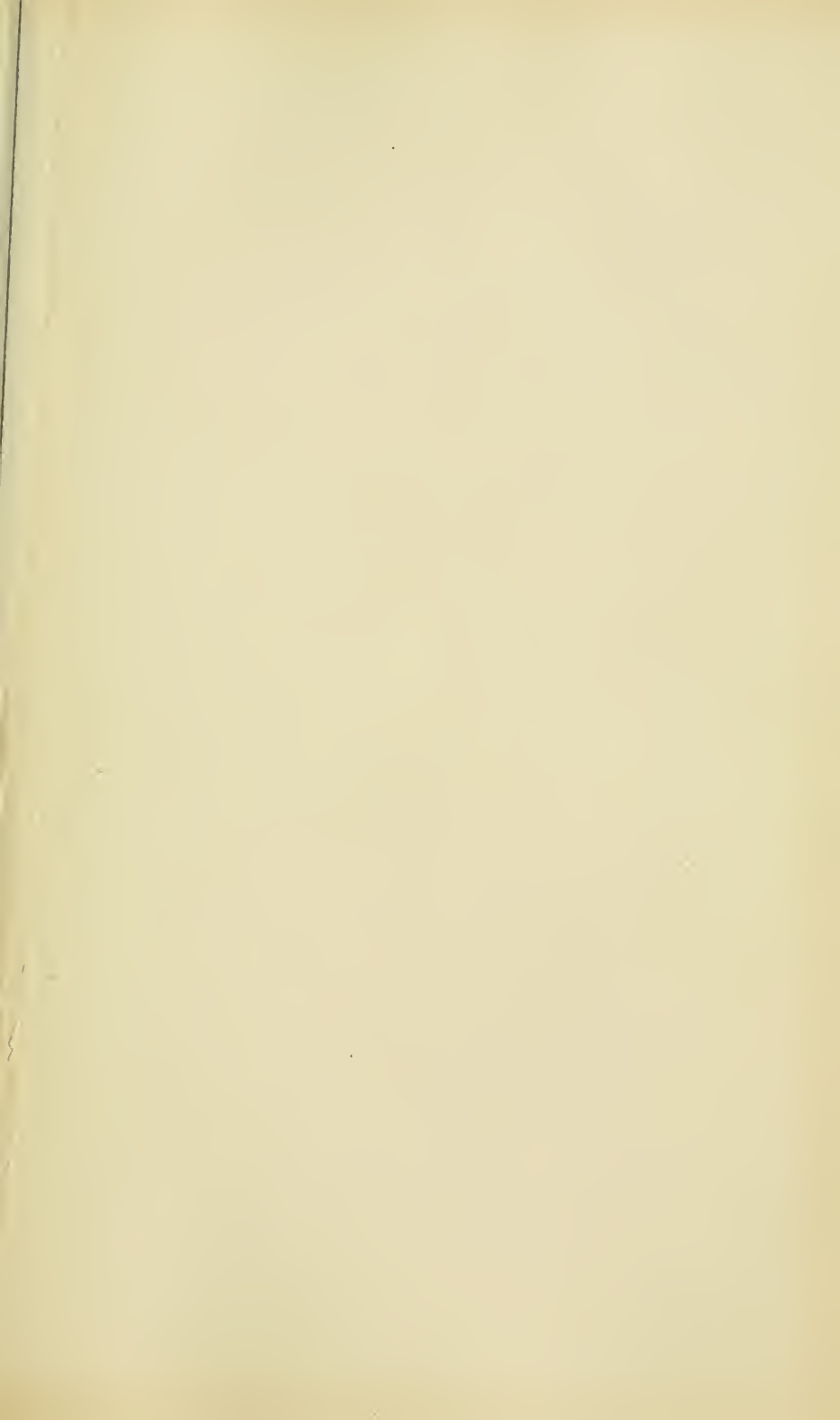


























































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P.F.













